

ABSTRACT

Research Paper: Code Switching between Arabic and English, Social Motivation and Structural Constraints

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The present study is dedicated to the analysis of code switching behaviors and patterns between English and Arabic based on the observations of Arabic-English bilinguals and their speech behaviors. The theoretical foundations of the present study are the Matrix Language Frame (MLF) theory, the Markedness Model, and the 4-m model were used to analyze the instances of code switching according to their syntactic, semantic, structural, and morphological roles in the language of bilinguals. Spontaneous speech of three siblings was chosen as the data source for the study. The participants' discussions with each other at family gatherings and at social meetings were recorded and coded. The findings indicate that bilinguals preferred to use the monolingual language code as a marked choice, while the choice to code switch was usually unmarked. The 4-m model was found to be clearly manifested in the use of the Matrix Language (ML) and the Embedded Language (EL), with the unequal distribution of content and system morphemes in code switching depending on the syntactic and semantic roles they were intended for. Congruence was found to influence morphologic

formation and language choice, following the 4-m model of morphemes' roles in assigning thematic roles. The morphemes requiring a fixed structure after them were rarely used in code switching in order to preserve congruence of speech. The overall findings indicate the consistency of MLF, 4-m, and Markedness models in the language of bilingual